

FIELD OBSERVATION OF SEATBELT USE IN WISCONSIN

May, 2003



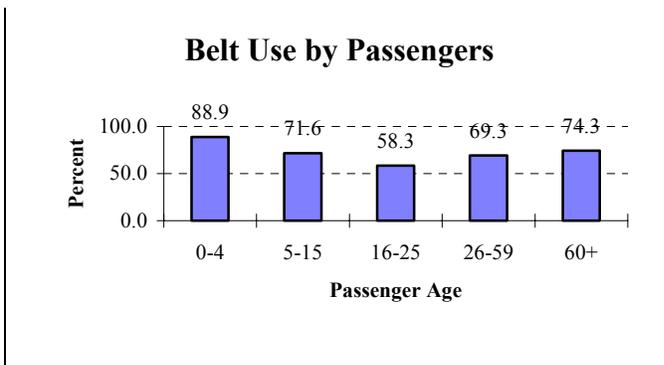
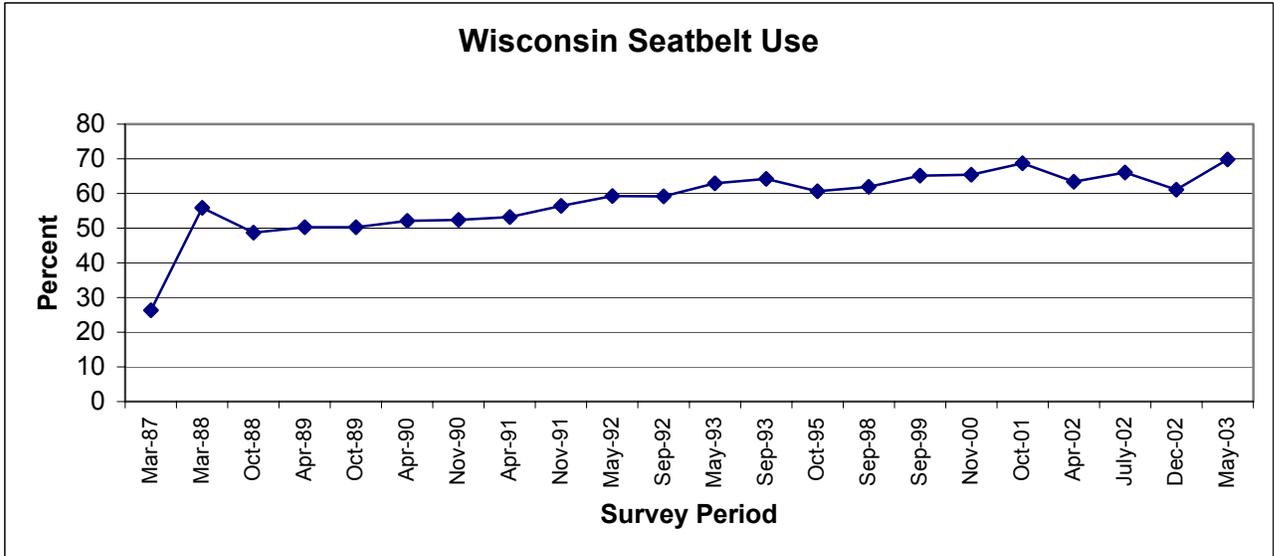
Since March 1987, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation has conducted periodic statewide observation surveys of seatbelt use. Wisconsin enacted a mandatory seatbelt law in December 1987 and a mandatory child safety seat law in May 1992.

RESULTS

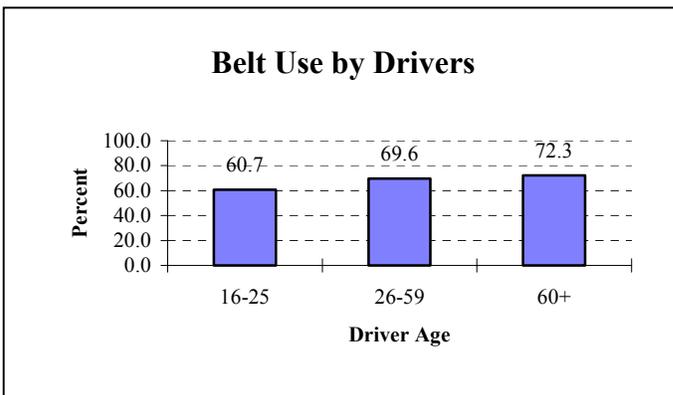
In May 2003, **69.8%** of passenger vehicle occupants (front outboard*) used their seatbelts.

*Front outboard refers to the driver and passenger in the right front seat (not in the middle position).

(Note: The chronology on the graph is not to scale due to irregularity in collection dates.)

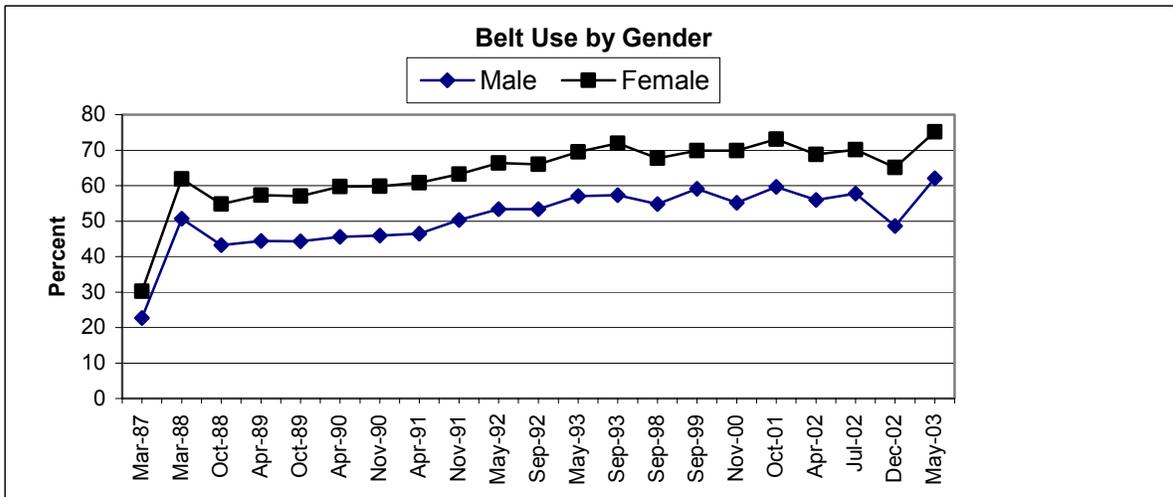


Belt use is highest among children 0-4 years of age (88.9%). This includes child safety seat use. However, a 16-month, nationwide study completed in 2002 by the National Safe Kids Campaign showed that approximately 82% of child safety seats are used improperly in the vehicle, creating a situation where a child would be at increased risk of injury in the event of a crash.



Belt use is the lowest among drivers ages 16-25 (60.7%). This group represents 16.2% of licensed drivers, yet accounted for 32.7% of drivers involved in crashes in 2002.

Wisconsin has consistently displayed a gender difference of more than 10% in safety belt use.
 In the most recent survey, 75.2% of females wore their belts, while only 62.1% of males did.

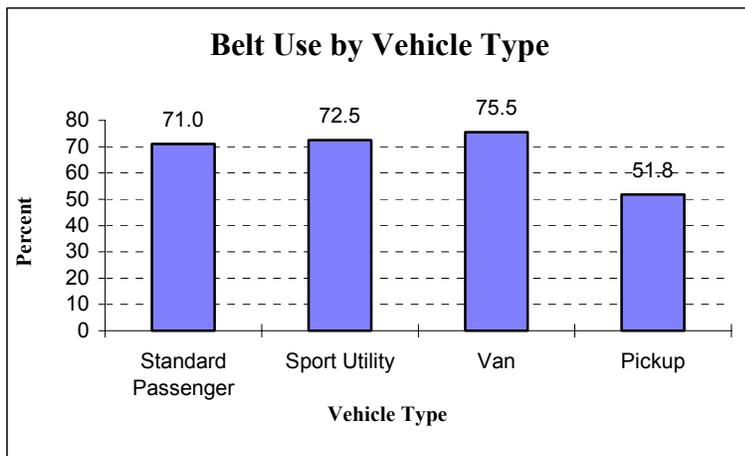
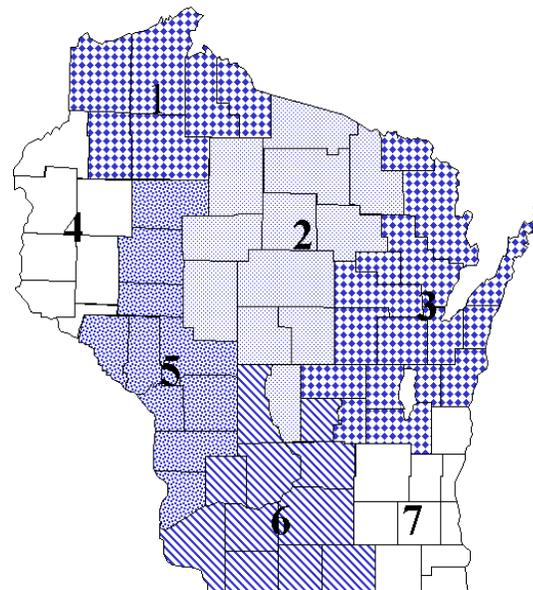


Belt Use by Region

Belt use varies by more than 12% across the state. The Madison area is highest at 74.4%, and the Superior/northern Wisconsin area is lowest at 62.1%.

Region	Belt Usage 2003 (%)
1 Superior/northern WI	62.1
2 Wausau/Rhineland	62.7
3 Green Bay/Appleton	74.1
4 Hudson/western WI	66.4
5 La Crosse/Eau Claire	67.3
6 Madison	74.4
7 Milwaukee	70.7

Wisconsin Regions



Occupants of vans were most likely to be wearing their seatbelts. 75.5% of van occupants wore safety belts.

Occupants of pickup trucks were least likely to use their belts. Approximately half (51.8%) of the occupants of pickup trucks wore safety belts.